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Department of State

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

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ORIGIN AID-00

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POP-04 STFN-02 HHS-09 RELO-01 AMAD-01 COM-02 OMB-02
/046 A0

INFO LOG-00 NEA-04 /004 R

DRAFTED BY: AID/ANE/AF: MJORDAN: MJ
APPROVED BY: AID/ANE/AF: GMANSVAGE
AID/ANE/AF: JMALICK

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R 070920Z MAR 89
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

UNCLAS STATE 071289

AIDAC O/AID/REP TOM EIGHMY

E. O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: N/A
SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN: CENSUS

REF ISLAMABAD 04701

1. BY THE TIME YOU RECEIVE THIS CABLE YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED VIA MARION CREEKMORE A JORDAN/EIGHMY LETTER WHICH HAS AS AN ATTACHMENT A MEMORANDUM COVERING JORDAN/HOBBS CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE AFGHAN CENSUS. THAT MEMO WAS WRITTEN PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REFTEL.
2. HOBBS HAS SINCE RECEIVED AND REVIEWED REFTEL. HE AGREES THAT NO ONE KNOWS WHAT THE POPULATION OF AFGHANISTAN REALLY IS. HE ALSO UNDERSTANDS THE CLIMATE WITHIN WHICH THE 1979 CENSUS WAS UNDERTAKEN. HE STILL BELIEVES THAT THE BASE POPULATION FROM THE 1979 CENSUS WOULD BE AN IMPROVEMENT OVER THE 1973 TOTAL SURVEY POPULATION BASE AND THAT THE 10.5 MILLION ESTIMATE IS TOO LOW. HOWEVER, HE WISHES TO ASSURE EIGHMY THAT HE IS NOT TRYING TO CHALLENGE HIM ON ESTIMATES BECAUSE THE DATA IS SIMPLY TOO SOFT.
3. JORDAN EXPLAINED THAT IT MAY BE WISE TO ADD A CAUTIONARY NOTE ON ALL FUTURE DOCUMENTS WHICH USE AFGHAN CENSUS FIGURES THAT SAYS QUOTE THE ESTIMATES OF THE PRESENT POPULATION LIVING IN AFGHANISTAN VARY GREATLY DEPENDING UPON THE POPULATION BASE USED FOR PROJECTION ESTIMATES. FOR EXAMPLE, THE 1988 POPULATION ESTIMATE VARIES FROM 10.5 TO 13 MILLION. UNQUOTE. WHILE CONTINUING TO STATE THAT HE BELIEVES THE 10.5 FIGURE IS TOO LOW, HOBBS AGREES THAT A CAUTIONARY NOTE WOULD BE HELPFUL TO ALERT THE READER TO THE SOFTNESS OF THE DATA. NOTE: SHOULD YOU USE THE COMPUTER MODEL ON FOOD DEFICITS/REFUGEE RETURN RATES CREEKMORE CARRIED FOR CONSIDERATION, YOU MAY WISH TO ADD THIS CAUTIONARY CENSUS STATEMENT. THIS WOULD ALSO EXPLAIN TO THE READER WHY BOTH THE 10.5 AND 13 MILLION POPULATION FIGURES ARE USED IN THE DOCUMENT.)
4. AS REFTEL PARA 5, HOBBS WILL SEND TO JORDAN FOR ONWARD TRANSMISSION TO EIGHMY THE INFORMATION REQUESTED ON THE 79 CENSUS. THEY DO NOT HAVE ANY SOVIET SOURCES. HOBBS SAID HE WOULD TRY TO BE RESPONSIVE TO EIGHMY'S CENSUS DATA NEEDS. KIMMITT

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